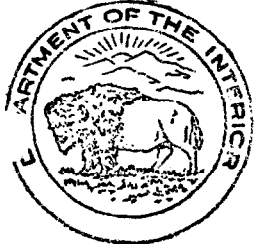


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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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IMPORTANT ANIMAL STUDIES MADE IN MONTANA

Two major additions to scientific literature on the life histories and management of big game species are Montana's recent multilithed studies on the bighorn sheep and Rocky Mountain goat, Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman stated today.

"The picturesque mountain goat and bighorn sheep have long been symbols of America's efforts to preserve endangered natural resources," said Secretary Chapman. "Great efforts have been made by Federal and state agencies to save these attractive big game animals. Through the use of Federal Aid funds, Montana has made an important contribution to this work."

Biological studies of the two species -- which included live-trapping and transplanting the animals to unoccupied range areas -- were made by Montana with the help of Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration funds. These funds come from the excise tax on sporting arms and ammunitions.

On the basis of these studies, Montana has published two reports: Rocky Mountain Goats in Montana, and Bighorn Sheep of Montana. Both publications are recognized by biologists as exceptionally thorough and informative reports. They are available from the State Fish and Game Commission in Helena to wildlife workers and libraries.

Two other projects, which are expected to serve as basis for similar publications, are on the grizzly bear and marten in Montana.

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